

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Human aggrecanase and polypeptides related thereto, as well as nucleic acid compositions encoding the same, are provided. The subject polypeptides and nucleic acid compositions find use
5 in a variety of applications, including research, diagnostic, and therapeutic agent screening applications. Also provided are methods of inhibiting aggrecanase activity in a host and methods of treating disease conditions associated with aggrecanase activity, e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, osteo-
arthritis, infectious arthritis, gouty arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, spondylolysis, sports injury, joint trauma, pulmonary disease, fibrosis, and the like.